

[31st January 1961]

கிருர். அதைக் கார்ப்பரேஷனுக்கு அனுப்பியிருக்கிறோம். குறிப்பாக அது வைசுரியைப் பொறுத்தது. அது அமுலில் வந்தால் மற்ற தொத்து நோய்களுக்கும் அதே முறையைப் பின்பற்றலாம் என்று நினைக்கிறோம்.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Can the Hon. Minister tell us why it is confined to areas like Triplicane, Mirsahibpet and T'Nagar only?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : I thought the hon. Member was himself living in Triplicane and must be knowing the reasons.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : I am in Royapettah. Will he give the reasons?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : They are crowded areas with a mixed population. They do not take proper care of their health. They do not have good eating habits. There is a hospital called 'Red Crescent Hospital' to which I was once invited for a function. They arranged a tea party and all around the place there were lot of flies and I could not see the eatables on the table. (Laughter.) It was very bad and I immediately asked the authorities to go and inspect the place and do something to improve the condition.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : May I take it that if in future any area is affected like that, the people there should invite the Hon. Minister to a party (laughter) and that then only things are likely to improve?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : We see that improvements take place in the matter of roads and communications when the Governor or some Minister makes a visit. (Laughter.)

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Is the nuisance in these places particularly due to the slums and huts and cattle found along the banks of the Buckingham Canal?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : We cannot say definitely. Slums are found everywhere. There are any number of slums at other places also.

Election Campaign

* 47 Q.—**SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN :** Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to bring in legislation to make it an election offence to utilise students below the age of 17 for the purpose of political propaganda or election campaign?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister) : No, Sir.

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SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Are the Government aware that in many institutions there are literary associations which are following some political party or other and that during the elections the boys are dragged in by the respective political parties for election work? Even during normal working hours, there is quarrel as a result of which there is much indiscipline in schools. What action do the Government propose to take in such cases?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The Government are aware of this problem and that is why they convened an all-party meeting to consider what steps should be taken to prevent students indulging in active party politics. There was a series of meetings and unfortunately the party leaders could not come to any agreement. At least one party leader definitely declined to be associated with the convention or even a sort of an informal gentleman's agreement. Therefore, it has not been possible to do anything.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Is it because that one party leader refused to agree, while all other parties agreed, there should not be any sort of control over these boys? Did the Government give up the attempt because of this? At least is it not in the interests of the students that they should come forward and do something in the matter?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : As it is, the Madras Educational Rule 94 provides that students of schools and colleges should abstain from active participation in communal or party politics. The question is not one of lack of legislation but difficulty of enforcement.

SRI M. ETHIRAJALU : சொந்தப் பணம் செலவு செய்து படிக்கக்கூடிய மாணவர்கள் விஷயத்தில் சட்டத்தால் ஒன்றும் செய்ய முடியவில்லையென்றால், அரசாங்க உதவி பெற்றுப் படிக்கும் மாணவர்கள் அரசியலில் ஈடுபட்டார்களானால் சர்க்கார் கொடுக்கும் சம்பளச் சலுகையை நிறுத்துவதற்கு சர்க்கார் உத்தேசிக்குமா?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : There is already an educational rule to that effect. As I said, it is not lack of rules and regulations that stands in the way. It is very difficult to enforce all these. Unless the party leaders agree not to utilise these people for party politics, nothing can be done.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Apart from the Government or the political parties coming forward to prevent children from doing electioneering work—I agree children are really more capable in election work—why not prevent the parents from allowing their children to participate in election campaigns?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : I do not know whether this question is addressed to me as a parent or Minister. (Laughter.)

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SRI K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR : I am not talking about crimes when I put this suggestion. Why not treat it as an election offence, an offence punishable with 2,000 rupees fine or something like that? This is a simple question.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : That has already been examined. I am afraid there are different views on the subject and we are unable to say whether it would or would not offend article 19 (2) of the Constitution. Since there is no clear legal view on that question, Government are not able to proceed with it at all.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : These children are minors. They are below 17 years. It is these minors that are dragged into the elections. Are the Government aware of the fact that in Western countries there is an understanding among the political parties and also the Government that students should not be involved in any political propaganda and election work? Why not the Government here follow that?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Not only are the Government aware. I am personally aware that students in Western countries do not participate in any election work. But I thought that the restraint came more from the students and homes than from the Government.

State Transport buses from Madras to Mepur

* 48 Q.—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any proposal to run State Transport buses from Madras to Mepur; and

(b) if so, the stage at which the matter now stands?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (a) & (b) The Madras State Transport Department is operating two services on the route Madras—Mepur with effect from 1st September 1960.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : With reference to the answer given by the Hon. Minister yesterday, viz., that no shorter route was taken over by the Government Transport, how is it that this route was taken over?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The decision to run long-distance services was taken only in December 1960 and this was taken over in September 1960.

Sri Thiruvatheeswarar temple

* 49 Q.—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(a) whether any instances of removal of contents of the Undi of Sri Thiruvatheeswarar temple at Triplicane, Madras, have been brought to the notice of the Government; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?